

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A ladder comprising:

(a) a plurality of sections each section having a first and a second rail and a plurality of generally uniform steps placed between and connected at each end of the step to one of the rails, causing the rails to be spaced apart by the width of the steps, said steps being generally orthogonal to said rails and

(b) means for connecting one section of the rail to another section at the ends of the rail to form a ladder having a height that is generally a multiple of the length of each section.

2. (Canceled)

3. (New) A ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein each of said rails has a first and a second end, said first end having a cross-section that is smaller than that of said second end and said second end having a cavity which tightly accept the insertion of a first end from another section of ladder into said cavity to permit one section of said ladder to be connected to another section of said ladder.

4. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rails have a first and a second end and are uniform in cross section at their ends, said ladder further comprises a first connector that is formed of a section of material which is less than one-fourth the height of the ladder sections and has a first and a second end with a cross section larger than that of said rails, said first connector contains a passage way passing through said first connector from the first end to the second end which tightly accepts the end of one rail from a first ladder section at the first end of the first connector and said passageway accepting one end of the rail from a second section of the ladder at the second end of the first connector to connect said first and second section of the ladder

together.

5. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a second connector having a first and a second end and wherein the rails of a first and a second section of ladder each contain a cavity at their ends and said second connector has a cross section which tightly fits into the cavities of said rails, said first end of said second connector being inserted into said cavity in one of said rails of said first section of the ladder while said second end of said second connector is inserted into said cavity in one of said rails of the second section of the ladder to connect said first and second section of ladder.
6. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 1 further including a transverse hole passing through the ends of said rails from side to side, said transverse holes at each end of said ladder section lying on a central axis which is generally orthogonal with respect to the longitudinal axis of each rail and parallel to the steps on the ladder.
7. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 6 having a upper and lower end with said lower end of said ladder resting on the ground and said ladder further comprising a bottom stabilizer which includes a first and a second block and rod having a first and second end, and said rod being inserted through said transverse holes located at the lower end of said ladder, said first block being connected to the first end of said first rod and said second block being connected to the second end of said first rod to stabilize the ladder from tipping.
8. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 7 further comprising a first and a second spike, said first spike being connected to said first block and said second spike being connected to said second block, said spikes each having a point and said point of each of said spikes being oriented on said block to face downward and be positioned to become embedded in the ground below said

ladder when said ladder is rested on the ground to prevent the tipping and skidding of said ladder with respect to the ground.

9. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ladder has a lower and an upper end with the lower end resting on the ground, and the upper end position adjacent a vertical structure, said ladder further comprising a top stabilizer which includes a second rod, said second rod having a first and a second end, a third and a forth block, a first rail collar partially surrounding said first rail, but avoiding the steps and a second rail collar partially surrounding said second rail, but avoiding the steps and first releasable means for securing said first rail collar to said first ladder rail and second releasable means for securing said second rail collar to said second ladder rail, said top stabilizer further including a first extension arm attached to the first collar and extending from the first collar towards said structure and a second extension arm attached to the second collar and extending towards said structure, said first and second extension arms having a near end proximate the rails and a far end away from the rails, said far ends of said extension arms each having a hole, said second rod being passed through said holes in said extension arms, said third block being connected to said first end of said second rod and said forth block being connected to said second end of said second rod to space said ladder away from direct contact with said structure allowing said blocks to make contact with said structure and thereby avoid damage to said structure.

10. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a third rod and two wheels, said third rod being passed through said transverse holes at one end of a ladder section and one of said wheels being rotatably attached to each end of said rod to facilitate transporting said ladder section on said wheels.

11. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 10 wherein said ladder comprises a plurality of ladder section positioned side by side with said section through which said third rod has been pass and said wheels have been attached, said ladder further comprising a top, a front, and a bottom panel connected in a "C" shape about said ladder sections to enable said plurality of ladder section to be transported on said wheels.
12. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rails have a first and a second end and are uniform in cross section at their ends, said ladder further comprising a third connector that is formed of a section of material which is less than one-fourth the height of the ladder sections and has a first and a second end with a cross section larger than that of the rails, said third connector containing a first passage way having central axis which passes through said third connector from the first end to the second end and tightly accept the end of one rail from a first ladder section at the first end of the third connector and also tightly accepts one end of the rail from a second section of the ladder at the second end of the third connector to connect said first and second sections of ladder together, said third connector having a projection on one side, said projection having a second passage way passing through the projection with a central axis that is orthogonal to the central axis of said first passage way, said second passage way having an opening to the outside of said third connector and said second passage way being positioned with its axis orthogonal to said rails, the opening of said second passage way facing outwardly of said ladder, said ladder being positioned with the rails running horizontally to form a section of fence which rests on the projection of said third connector.
13. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 12 further comprising a third and a forth section of ladder and a second and a third of said third connectors, connecting said third and forth sections

of fence together and a forth connector having a length of less than one forth the height of one of said ladder sections and a cross section which fits tightly in said second passage way being inserted into the second passage way of the third connector to connect said first and second sections of ladder and the second passage way of the third connector connecting the third and forth sections of ladder to permit stacking the sections of ladder and supporting them in a stable position to provide a fence of double the height of that in claim 6 and to provide a support for scaffolding.

14. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ladder has a lower and an upper end with the lower end resting on the ground, and the upper end position adjacent a vertical structure, said ladder further comprising a hoist which includes, a first rail collar partially surrounding said first rail, but clearing said steps and a second rail collar partially surrounding said second rail but clearing said step and enabling said hoist to slide up and down on said first and second collars, said hoist further including a cross tray connecting said third and forth collars, said hoist further including a pulley and a line, said pulley being connected to the top of the ladder and said line passing through said pulley and being connected to said hoist to enable said hoist to be raised and lowered on said ladder by drawing on and releasing the free end of said line.

15. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 1 comprising at least a first and a second of said ladder sections held generally upright with the bottoms spaced apart and the sections connected together at their tops to form a step ladder.

16. A ladder as claimed in claim 15 further comprising a bolt, a nut, a top panel and a bottom panel, said top panel resting on top of the ladder and lying in the horizontal plane, said bottom panel lying below the first step from the top on both ladder sections, said bolt passing through

said first and second panels and being secured in place by threading said nut on said bolt and tightly said nut to draw said upper and lower panels together.

17. A ladder as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a first and a second projection on said lower panel, with each projection being located on opposite side of said lower panel and extending upward to capture said first step on each ladder section to prevent said ladder from opening beyond a specific limit.

18. (New) A ladder as claimed in claim 17 further comprising a flexible line connected between said first and second ladder sections below the first step from the top to prevent said sections from spreading beyond a prescribed limit.



Kevin Redmond  
Attorney for the Applicant  
Registration 27049